

# Arts Access Victoria Annual Report 2021





We acknowledge the Traditional Owners and all First Peoples living and working on this land.

We celebrate the history and contemporary creativity of the world's oldest living culture and pay respect to Elders – past and present.





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Cover Image: Photography by Greg Holland. Luna Vexa  
Performing at Collingwood Yards as part of the Music Makers,  
event Amplify.

Acknowledgement image: Better anti-colonialism through  
paper pulp 3, Bek Saltmarsh, 2021.

## AAV exceeded or met all 21 of our KPIs.



# About AAV

Arts Access Victoria (AAV) is the state's peak body for arts and disability. Since 1974, AAV has been a leader in disability arts practice, access and cultural equity. AAV is disability-led. AAV produces and platforms the work of Deaf and Disabled artists. AAV's goals are to:

- Define and build cultural equity for Deaf and Disabled people
- Target and shift the barriers and conditions that maintain cultural inequity
- Position AAV as a resilient and dynamic powerhouse to extend its role and impact.

We want everyone represented in all areas of the arts, screen & creative industries. We believe art is a tool for change. We celebrate the aesthetic potential of disability and access. We share authentic stories that are ours to tell. We produce and platform excellence in disability arts and culture.

Front Up  
exhibition by  
Adam Knapper  
on AAV building,  
2021. Photo by  
Raphael Recht.

# Art As a Tool for Change

Deaf and Disabled artists are more than just artists. We are provocateurs. We are changemakers. The skills we've developed navigating inaccessible systems have made us lateral, creative thinkers and problem solvers.

Our work is more than just art and content. It's evidence. It's advocacy. It disrupts assumptions and re-sets stereotypes. It creates solidarity and community. It addresses cultural inequities and the deep pain of not seeing ourselves reflected back in the world.

For many Deaf and Disabled people, arts, screen and cultural participation and practice can be a vehicle for expression, resilience, transformation or even survival. Creativity can be an act of reclaiming power, sharing experiences and shifting ideologies. A way to engender a sense of

pride and belonging, or to reduce isolation and loneliness for people and communities who have been doubly-marginalised through the impact of COVID-19.

In this, AAV has a leading role in an important human rights based artistic movement that celebrates the aesthetic potential of disability and access, diversifies the bodies, ideas and ways of being usually found in arts, screen and cultural spaces, and shares authentic stories that are only ours to tell.

Our work creates a space where Deaf and Disabled people can be found at the centre of creative practice and are recognised and valued for our work and contribution to screen and artistic cultural landscapes.





# Chair Report



In April 2021 I was honoured to become the Chair of the AAV Board. This meant, for the first time, AAV is now truly disability-led. The organisation is led by disabled women leaders as CEO and Chair.

I am so proud of the organisation's work this year. It is amazing to see the organisation not only survive, but endearingly thrive throughout the COVID-19 pandemic yet again. Not only that, but to create new programs and initiatives to build on the work we are doing. Alter State, Accelerating Cultural Change, and the Amplify and Music Makers programs are all important markers of change. These programs will have a big impact on the sector, and careers of many artists.

I thank our funding partners, particularly the Australia Council for the Arts, Creative Victoria, City of Melbourne, and the City of Port Phillip.

I would like to thank outgoing Chair Brad Sadler for his service, generosity and continued support as Vice Chair. It is exciting to welcome many new faces on our Board. I thank them for their valuable time and commitment.

Thank you to CEO/Artistic Director Caroline Bowditch for her leadership and encouraging vision and influence for AAV's future. I extend my gratitude to Deputy CEO/ General Manager Nikki Zerella for her dedication and the enthusiasm she brings to the organisation. I applaud the work of the entire AAV staff who continue to meet the challenges of working through an ever- changing pandemic environment and recognise their resilience and adaptability.

And finally thank you to the artists we work with throughout the year. Your passion, curiosity, and commitment to your work is uplifting and is why we do what we do.

Amanda Lawrie- Jones (Chair)

# Chief Executive Officer Report



There have been so many highlights for me in 2021. But one moment stays with me. I was immensely proud to award the first Music Victoria and Arts Access Victoria Amplify Award to Eliza Hull. On stage in front of hundreds of people from the music sector, I thought about all the years of advocacy that had led to that moment.

This year we welcomed many new programs and initiatives. It shows the strength of AAV, that even in pandemic conditions, we can innovate and build new programs. I am particularly thrilled to be part of Alter State - a festival that I believe can open up new opportunities. It will bring new local, national and international audiences to the work of Deaf and Disabled artists.

Our new pilot program, Accelerating Cultural Change, will inform future funding programs in Australia. Recently our advocacy has led to dedicated streams of funding for Deaf and Disabled artists, access costs added to grants on top of project funding, and greater Deaf and Disabled representation on assessment panels. The Accelerate grants are the first time AAV has run a grants program for artists. It introduced us to a host of new people. The overwhelming response showed me the effect our pride has had. More people are now sharing their lived experience and want to be part of our community.

The training we have been leading with arts organisations has shown the real desire for change. We can feel this is a moment like no other.

I want to thank the artists and staff for their hard work this past year. I want to especially thank the Management team for their support and work. And my thanks to the AAV Board, who continue to support me and the team to an ever-brighter future.

Caroline Bowditch (CEO/Artistic Director)



# THE OTHER FILM FESTIVAL

The Other Film Festival (TOFF) delivered proudly disability-led programming throughout 2021.

Since TOFF first started in 2004, the screen landscape has transformed. Storytellers play a vital role in shaping and developing new ways to create work and connect with audiences. A major focus of TOFF is building cultural equity and targeted outreach opportunities for Deaf and Disabled screen creatives.

TOFF is honoured to be part of the global disability-led screen advocacy movement. As stated by TOFF's Artistic Director, Fiona Tuomy, "We are excited for the future and will continue to play a vital role in the platform and advocacy of disability-led authentic storytelling and representation for Deaf and Disabled screen creatives and audiences".

TOFF genuinely thanks our Principal Partner - City of Melbourne and Major Government partner - Screen Australia. We also thank all of our partners including Emerging Writers Festival, MIFF, ACMI and St Kilda Film Festival.

To find out more about our disability-led program download TOFF 2021 Revisited.



Australian Government



On the set of Dry Fire. Catherine Lillian is on the left with Adam McConvell on the right.





Co-founded and presented by Arts Centre Melbourne and Arts Access Victoria

# ALTER STATE

A celebration of  
disability, creativity  
and culture

9 — 13  
November



[artscentremelbourne.com.au/alter-state](https://artscentremelbourne.com.au/alter-state)

Rodney Bell for Meremere by Movement of the Human.  
Photo credit: Tom Hoyle.

It's arrived! Alter State is the mainstage Australian and Aotearoa (New Zealand) Disability Arts Festival we have been waiting for.

AAV and Arts Centre Melbourne (ACM) signed a 10-year partnership agreement to present Alter State – a disability-led festival. Alter state will happen every two years. The first festival will be September 2022, but we couldn't wait until then. The Alter State Digital Launch was an online preview we presented 9 -13 November 2021.

The Alter State Digital Launch was curated by AAV and ACM. We exhibited the Museum of Us commissions to new audiences.

We ran three online panel conversations and workshops.

**Telling It Like It Is – Using Text for Change** with Artists CB Mako, Ferris Knight and Woz.

**Deafuturama** with Chelle Destefano, Elvin Lam and Ramas McRae.

**Embodiment Workshop** with Raina Peterson.

Alter State will attract large audiences to the work of Deaf and Disabled artists.

We are excited to be embarking on this journey

**“A really powerful way to  
challenge perceptions  
about disability”**

– Anonymous (Telling It Like It is Broadcast)

Inner Edge by Matthew Simpson. Matthew Simpson is a Brand Artist of Alter State, 2021.



# The Museum of Us



Alana O'Neil,  
Pot 2, 2021.

Victoria Together is a new initiative by the Victorian Government to create online content during the COVID-19 pandemic. Victoria Together approached us to commission content for their platform.

We asked 45 Deaf and Disabled Victorian artists to respond to the prompt,

What could an accessible future be for Victoria? And what sort of future do we want to emerge?

We wanted works that were authentic, proud, bold and curious. The Museum of Us included many forms of digital technology. Text, animation, audio and video recordings, computer graphics and digital drawings, paintings, sculpture, collages, and photographs were all used. We profiled several artists in behind-the-scenes, short videos about their works. All the works included audio description, Auslan, captions or image description.

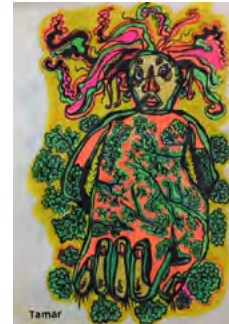
The Museum of Us now lives permanently on the Victoria Together website. Creative Victoria has shared it online, and we highlighted it during the Alter State Digital Launch.

The Museum of Us has benefited artists in several ways. Artists received a commission payment, and some artists said the project led to more work for them. Or they sold work due to being part of the project.

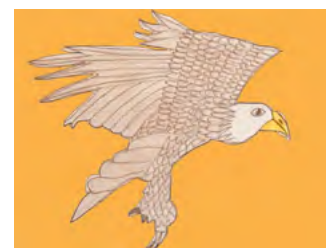
Victoria Together and AAV have agreed to continue working together to share the work of Victorian Deaf and Disabled artists on this celebrated platform.



Tamar Dolev, Billie, 2021.



Tamar Dolev,  
Untitled, 2021.



Fiona Taylor, Flying Free,  
2021.

Artwork right: Ana Maria Gomides, Oh Well, Zine Page 3, 2021. To read the zine visit The Museum of US





# Music Makers

Music Makers is a unique mentorship program for Deaf and Disabled music workers in Victoria. Music Makers was funded by Creative Victoria. It included a Music Makers report that researched accessibility in the music sector. The report will be published in 2022.



Music Makers supported Deaf and Disabled people to both develop and produce their work. It fostered accessible and meaningful interactions with industry. The program committed to spaces where participants could be authentic to their practice, and in turn share that with audiences. To do this, we built in access at every stage of the project. 15 mentors worked with 10 mentees over 12 one-to-one mentoring sessions.

## Amplify - Celebrating Deaf and Disabled Music Makers

The mentoring program held a closing event at the Collingwood Yards. Amplify began with an opening night of performances by six of the mentees from the program. Neurodivergent dancers from dance troupe Playing Field Series improvised dance sequences to the music. A 360-degree virtual reality recording was made for people to experience the performances at home. A week-long art exhibition presented work made by mentees, too. The project was guided by the individual access requirements of participants.

The Music Makers program and Amplify event was a huge success. The program was featured on the ABC Arts program Art Works. Participating artists have gone on to receive funding for their work and further career opportunities.

Left: Amplify event and exhibition as part of the Music Makers program, 2021. Photo by Greg Holland.

Right top to bottom: Cam Camino and Geryon in the studio as part of Music Makers, 2021. Photo by Kate Disher-Quill.

Chris Wright and Sam Boon playing as part of Music Makers, 2021. Photo by Kate Disher-Quill.

Music Makers mentor Parvyn Kaur Singh with mentee Irene Zhong practicing at a recording studio in 2021. Photo by Kate Disher-Quill.



**“Start validating yourself and accepting your identity and your craft. If you don’t take yourself seriously, you invalidate your craft”**

- Irene Zhong







Nabil Arab, Birds, Paintings, 2020. Arts Access Victoria, Multicultural Arts Victoria and Regional Arts Victoria formed a curatorial team to loan artworks for offices of VicHealth.

# Accelerating Cultural Change

Accelerating Cultural Change is a pilot study in creating accessible funding programs. Creative Victoria invited us to research, design and evaluate accessible funding programs for Victorian Deaf and Disabled artists.

AAV and Creative Victoria wanted to remove the barriers for artists applying for funding. We created a streamlined application form, with no budget required. We accepted applications in a range of formats, including interviews on zoom or phone, audio and video files, webforms, and written applications via email. We preferred to support

artists who had not gotten grants before. We used the money to make two tiers of funding.

Accelerate: Nurture: \$5,000 grants, with an extra \$2,500 access costs provided. To give artists short term sustenance to support their practice.

Accelerate: Create: \$15,000 grants, with an additional \$5,000 access costs. To support ambitious projects with access embedded into the project, or that tell Disabled stories in own voices.

We ran three rounds of funding and the response was overwhelming. We received 264 applications

to the Accelerate funding across the program. We assessed the applications by a disability-led panel. We gave feedback to artists who applied if they requested it.

We supported 22 artists and collectives to make new work and sustain their practice.

We are currently having Accelerate evaluated by an external Disabled researcher. We will be sharing the outcomes of this research with the sector.

We want to make the funding landscape more accessible to Deaf and Disabled artists, everywhere.

**“Thanks again so much for this, it's a huge help at this time and I can't wait to get started.”**

- Eva Torkkola



# Auspicing and Grants

AAV continued to receive strong demand for our auspicing services in 2021. Auspicing is where we apply for a grant on behalf of the artist. We receive the grant money and manage it for the artist. We help prepare the grant, give budget advice, insure the project, and help with administration and reporting.

We worked with partners Creative Victoria, City of Melbourne, City of Port Phillip, and Arts House. We supported artists applying for other grants too.

We hosted accessible information sessions and workshops. We provided peer review and one-on-one feedback and advice. We supported over 360 Deaf and Disabled artists to apply for funds to make work. This was a threefold increase from 2020. We increased our workforce and support for artists due to our proven record of supporting artists, and working with funders to create more accessible funding programs.

## Auspicee: Dut Garang

Dut Garang, aka Sadboy, is a music producer, artist, and legend. Sadboy produced an EP this year with the support of the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria, and auspiced by Arts Access Victoria.

In 2021 Dut Garang and his team wrote, recorded, mastered and released the Legends EP. Dut also made an animated video clip, branding, a website, merchandise, and PR. Songs from the EP receive an average of 1,500 streams per month on Spotify.



Green and Gold album artwork by Cam Camino and studiodugong, 2021.



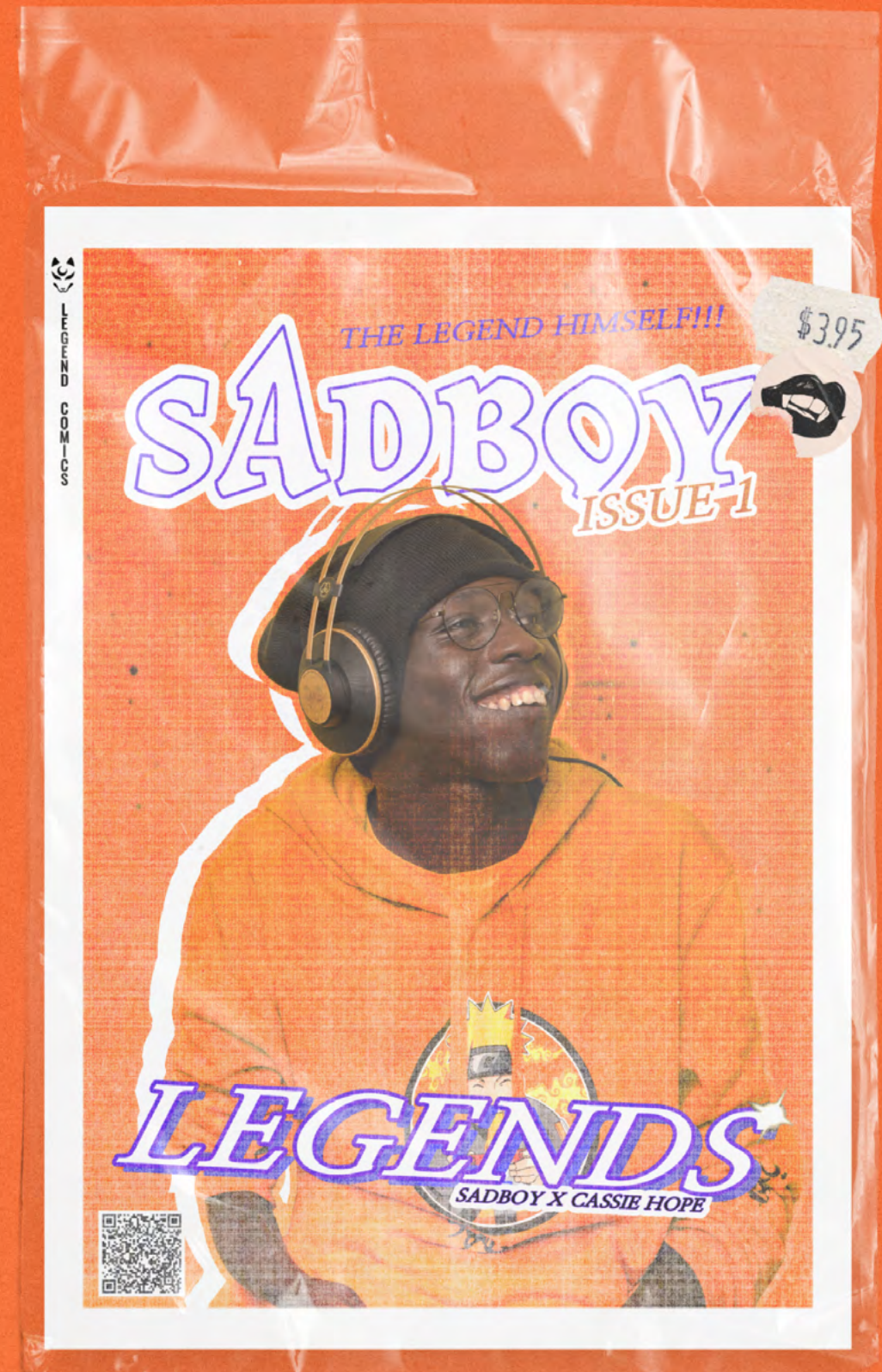
Croake in performance, featuring Robert Croft and Stephen Oakes, 2021.



Book cover for A Very Long Way by Naomi Fryers published in 2021.

"I liked the different ways we made the songs. It was helpful to my learning when I came up with ideas for songs and Jesse, the engineer, and Cassie, the vocalist and guitarist, showed me different ways to expand my song writing process."

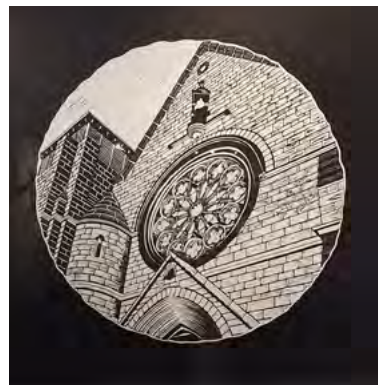
- Dut Garang Sadboy



Right: Dut Garang, Sadboy EP cover design, 2021.



# Thrive Creative Grants



Thrive Creative Grants is a funding program for the Emerald Hill (South Melbourne) area. It is a partnership between the City of Port Phillip and AAV.

Victorian Deaf and Disabled artists applied for a grant of \$10,000, plus access costs. The grant was used to create a new work for the Open House festival 2021. The Open House festival is part of Open House Melbourne, in July 2021. The venues we worked with were Gasworks, Temperance Hall, Australian Tapestry Workshop, the City of Port Phillip Library and Heritage Collection, and local businesses on the festival. The festival moved online due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

An independent panel of Disabled artists chose five new projects for the festival. The 2021 artists are Daniel Coulson, Hugh McNab, Sabina Knox, Dave Houston, and Ryan New. Four projects from 2020 were also part of the festival.

On Saturday 24 July 2021 we presented Thrive Open House online. This was on Youtube and the Open House Melbourne websites.

We also showed the work of Thrive artists at Nebula on Wednesday 15 December 2021. The event was also livestreamed.

We thank the City of Port Phillip and venues involved in the Thrive Creative Grants program and congratulate all the artists involved.

Artwork left and down: Installation image of South Melbourne Town Hall, by Joe Monteleone, 2021.

Installation image of South Melbourne Market, by Joe Monteleone, 2021.

Installation image of South Melbourne Tram Station, by Joe Monteleone, 2021.

Installation image of St Peter's and St Paul's Catholic Church, by Joe Monteleone, 2021.

Right image: Daniel Coulson pictured with his installation as part of the Thrive Creative Grants program, 2021.





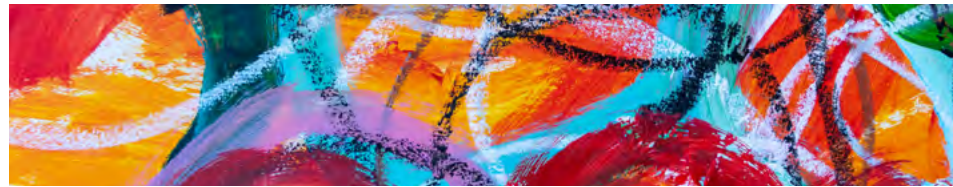
# Studios

## Art Day South

Art Day South is 30 years old!

Art Day South focused on this celebration in 2021. Art Day South: 30 years was an online exhibition and event. The exhibition showcased the works of past artists of Art Day South. Artist Heather White and CEO/Artistic Director Caroline Bowditch hosted a joyful celebration. Past Art Day South artists and facilitators participated.

In 2021 we released the Creatures! Artists made sculptures as part of a public art project at Thomas Street Reserve Park. The park is part of Bayside City Council, and the Mayor Laurence Evans OAM launched the project.



## Artstop

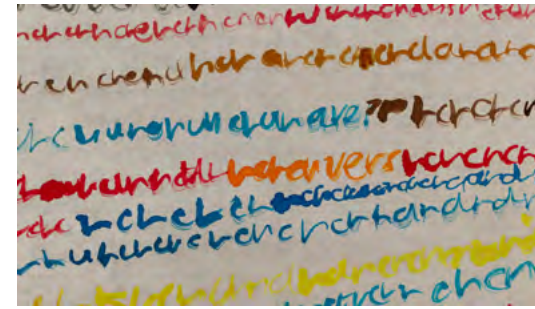
Deconstructed Musical was a new exhibition by Artstop at the Coburg Library, July 2021. Studio members love musicals so this theme allowed us to explore the theme further. The exhibition included many artistic mediums. Stage and set designs, props, writing, puppetry, performance, music, movement and expression all featured.

The interest in Artstop continued to grow over 2021. A second studio session in the afternoon was added. The wonderful partnership with Brunswick Uniting Church and Olive Arts has allowed Artstop to grow and thrive.

The Artstop studios use a hybrid model, providing artists with the option to join in person or online. This has been a great success and has even allowed an artist from Perth to join!



Creatures at Hampton Park. Image courtesy of Bayside City Council.



Linda Harman, Krsrrespres Net Islarnd, 2021.

## Echo Collective

In This Place was a five-part workshop series led by Echo Collective. Echo Collective invited Hobson's Bay City Council residents to free online workshops exploring collaborative and devised performance. The final session was a presentation of performances created during the workshops.

Hobson's Bay City Council's support of Echo Collective has included the use of Louis Joel Community Arts Centre as a base for the group. Echo Collective look forward to continuing a strong relationship with the council.

David Baker, a long-term member of Echo Collective, recently became a facilitating artist for the group. This has been a successful development in the leadership and creative direction of Echo Collective. Foundation member Joanna Pires was previously facilitating and we are thankful for Joanna's work in this role.



Emma Holt, Pandemic Panic, 2020.



Creatures at Hampton Park. Image courtesy of Bayside City Council.

## Get Out!

In 2021 Get Out! Presented Fantastic Yes! at Walker Street Gallery in Dandenong. They exhibited over 50 artworks ranging from video and soundscapes sculpture, painting, and performance. Fantastic Yes! was in development for over two years and the opening reflected the anticipation felt by all. Over 60 people attended the opening, and many artworks sold - some pre-opening!



Larissa MacFarlane, ParAvion is on a temporary pause until further notice. Stay Home. Stay connected. Stay alert, 2020.



Chandra Kamaldeen, Pensive, 2021.

“Nimbus has given me the motivation and support I needed to feel comfortable enough to explore new avenues in my art practice. Because of Nimbus I have been able to communicate with likeminded people and forge friendships”

- Marnie Woods



## Nimbus

Nimbus artists enjoyed a hybrid model studio. This allowed artists to attend online and in-person (when in person was possible).

Nimbus studio highlights included:

- participating in the Rising Festival
- the group exhibition 'Ether' presented at Neon Parlor Gallery
- three Nimbus artists presenting in Design Fringe
- five Nimbus artists presenting in the Inclusive Arts Network online exhibition
- the development of a group exhibition scheduled for June/July 2022.



## SRSs

Our Supported Residential Studio (SRS) program includes 9 studios.

The SRS program was challenged by lockdowns and isolation throughout 2021. But we learnt a lot in 2020. We managed to stay connected via zoom and phone calls. We did have some face-to-face sessions in November 2021. There was incredible joy to be connecting again when this did happen.

We began working on our new project, Music and Memory. Music and Memory will be launched at Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI) in 2022. The project comes from our work over Zoom from the last 2 years. Artworks respond to music and songs that were significant to the artist. The project includes storytelling, drawings, paintings and poetry. Artists will collaborate with guest artists and animator Sebastian Fowler to create a short animated film, screened at ACMI.



Toby Matheson, The Mystery, 2019.



Jonathan Thompson, Devil Woman and Zombie, 2021

## WOW

Way out West (WOW) continued to maintain and develop skills in their independent arts practices. WOW focused on visual arts and music, as well as their traditional mode of collaborative performance. Artists became more comfortable with being creative using digital tools such as online music labs. WOW took part in the Rising Wandering Lanterns community arts project as part of the Rising Festival.

A big theme this year for WOW was patterns in drawing. WOW also used the Google Chrome Music Lab, and got more confident in making digital artwork.

WOW says thank you to long term facilitators Fleur Dean and Sophia Constantine. Fleur and Sophia packed up their costumes and sets and have run away to the circus and theatre!



Raymond Martin, Grey clouds, Blue Mountains, 2019.

## Art About

We said goodbye to Art About in 2021. Art About began when AAV was approached by the local council to provide programs for the area. There were previously limited opportunities for Deaf and Disabled artists on the peninsula. Since that time Art About artists have grown their independent practices. There are now more opportunities in the area, and artists have created networks and support for their work.

## Capturing the City

Capturing the City is a program for young Deaf and Disabled artists aged 10-25 based at SIGNAL. SIGNAL is the City of Melbourne's youth art space. We worked with school groups to make sculptural, digital and public art works. These artworks responded to the city and built environment.

One project included making temporary sculptures using a variety of wooden materials. These sculptures created the artists' own versions of a city. Members of the public watched the artists creating the sculptures and engaged with them. At the end of each session, the students told the story of what they created. The artists often met online. They created drawings and stories around their ideas of built space and the objects that have meaning for them from their environments at home. We shared a presentation of works created for Capturing the City at The Gathering in November 2021.



## Nexus

Nexus is a professional development series for young Victorian Deaf and Disabled artists. Project Officer Eva Sifis developed and led eight workshops for young people looking for a career in the arts.

Each session covered a different topic. Participants could choose to attend one or more sessions. Topics covered included financial management and arts business planning, building networks of support, writing an artist bio and promotion and marketing of your work.

Strips of artwork seen on this page and the page before: Michelle Waterfall, Drums, 2019.



# Mentorships

AAV's mentorship program pairs Deaf and Disabled artists with a mentor relevant to their practice. Mentees receive advice and support in different areas of practice. These include technical skills of artmaking, career and professional development, conceptual feedback, and peer solidarity. The program supports NDIS funded artists to undertake weekly, one-on-one sessions.

Highlights of 2021 include:

- Partnership with the Yarra Sculpture Gallery to offer six artists a summer residency. This residency provided a studio space and a group exhibition.
- Michel Tuomy presented his play Little Brother, Big Sister at La Mama Theatre, May 2021, funded by Creative Victoria.
- Chrysalis; Recognition and Restitution. A solo exhibition by Guler Altunbas at Linden New Art in St Kilda, running from 1 April 2021 until 9 May 2021
- Human First? A solo exhibition by Guler Altunbas held at the Dax Centre, 6 May until 27 June 2021
- Urban/Suburban. A solo photographic exhibition by Vinh Nguyen, at Harmony Square, Greater Dandenong Library, 6 May until late October 2021.
- Front Up. A public art exhibition by Adam Knapper held as part of Thrive. July- ongoing at AAV, South Melbourne.

Artist Nikki Wilson says: "The mentorship program has been profoundly important to me and my work. Working with my mentor has given me the confidence to see myself again as a professional artist, which is so important. I can honestly say that without the mentorship program I would not be making the work I am making now, and I would still be stuck in a rut, isolated and lost."

Left: Vinh Nguyen, a screen based artist filming at an AAV event in 2021. Photo by Raphael Recht.



Little Brother, Big Sister by Michel Tuomy at La Mama Theatre, 2021. Photo by Darren Gill.



Sculpture by Tamar Dolev, 2021.



Vinh Nguyen pictured in front of his exhibition Urban Suburban exhibition, 2021.



Laurence Flegg, Thru the Looking Glass, 2021.





In the arts and creative industries, 'excellence' is often defined by non-disabled-based thinking. The Gathering's design uses a self-determination model. Underpinning this is the concept of Disability Pride.

- A grant-writing workshop with Avril McQueen (City of Melbourne)
- A seminar on Disability Pride with Larissa MacFarlane (independent disability activist)
- A behind-the-scenes discussion with Ruby-Rose Pivet-Marsh and Millie Baylis (Emerging Writers' Festival)
- A seminar on the Own Voices movement and the legacy of Stella Young with Amy Marks, Fiona Tuomy, Kayla Ibrahim and Ayse Ayranci.
- Announcement of the Accelerating Change grants with Minister for Creative Industries Danny Pearson
- An information session on the disability-focused initiative 'The Warehouse Residency' with Emily Sexton, Sarah Rowbottom and Samira Farah (Arts House)
- Reflections on the disability- and youth-focused screen arts project 'Capturing the City' at Signal Studio engaging Deaf and Disabled young people from schools across Melbourne.
- Information sessions on Thrive Festival and the Stella Young Award with Sarah Houbolt and Eva Sifis
- An invitation to respond to the creative provocation 'Different Stories, Different Bodies, Different Spaces' with Caroline Bowditch and Fiona Tuomy.



**NO ONE LEFT BEHIND**

Right: Bridgette Griffiths-Mark, *Disability is Authenticity*, 2021. The Museum of Us.



# Sector Development

## Consultancies

AAV's consultancy services are led by Access Development Officer Janice Florence. They are a vital resource for Victorian arts organisations and independent producers.

In the past two years the demand for consultancies has never been higher. Janice and a team of lived experience experts provide a range of services. These include development of Disability Action Plans (DAPs), including establishing working groups and providing resources for data gathering and evaluation. Other services are creating focus groups, website and venue audits, guidance on aesthetic access, nominations for panels and events, and more.

In 2021 we worked with Malthouse Theatre, University of Melbourne Union House Theatre, Bunjil Place, Arts House Melbourne, Collingwood Yards, Footscray Community Arts, Rising Festival, White Night, Australian Centre for the Moving Image, the National Communications Museum, and more.

### **Example: Disability and Inclusion Action Plan: Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria**

This extensive project included a website accessibility audit. Many consultants reported on the website with different access perspectives. In person visits were then made to the Cranbourne and Melbourne sites. These visits considered Blind and Deaf access in programmed activities, physical access, staff awareness and customer service. All of this information was used to draft a Disability and Inclusion Action Plan. The plan was drafted with the Access Advisory Committee and AAV. AAV then provided further feedback for the plan.



### **Example: Independent Artist, Amy Tsilmanis, Podcaster**

Amy is a committed and industrious Podcaster with a broad audience. She was aware that her podcasts are not accessible for Deaf Auslan users. Amy knew that her software might not be accessible to screen readers used by people who are blind or have low vision. AAV provided her with access information and referred her to other organisations making accessible podcasts. AAV also linked Amy with a Deaf artist and filmmaker. They made a podcast that was fully accessible together, expanding her accessibility skills and providing employment for the Deaf artist. AAV also linked Amy with a consultant who is blind who provided Amy with advice.

## Training

AAV presented 992 hours of training to 248 artswriters in 2021. Our clients include the Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI), Next Wave Festival, Circus Oz, Regional Arts Victoria, Multicultural Arts Victoria, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, and more.

Our training offerings are an opportunity for artswriters and frontline staff to learn about disability in a judgement-free zone. People who attend learn various ways of thinking about cultural equity. They can then apply this to the work that they do.

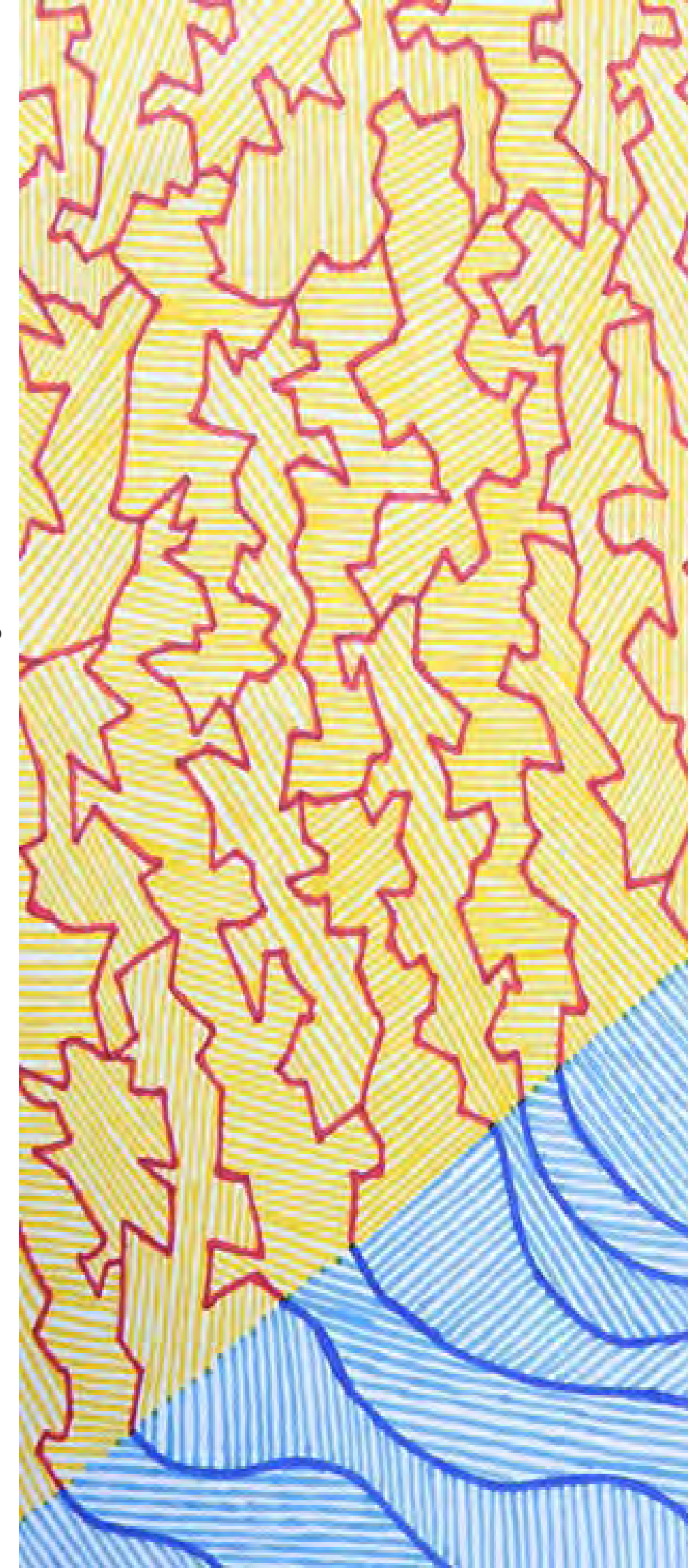
Our training programs are;

- The Water We Swim In
- Cultural Safety in a Disability Context
- Creating Welcoming Environments
- Addressing Ableism in the Workplace
- Accessible Arts Practice

The incredible success and demand for this program shows AAV's positioning as a key influence on the sector in disability leadership. It shows an increasing desire for a culturally equitable arts in Victoria.

Adam Knapper, Study 1, 2021.

Teagan Connor, Endurance and Hope, 2021.





# Awards

## Stella Young

We cherish the memory of our collaborator Stella Young. We honour her every year by awarding a young artist with the Stella Young award. We thank Disability Media Australia (formerly Grit Media), and the production of No Limits for funding the Stella Young Award.

In 2021 the winner of the Stella Young award is Amy Marks.

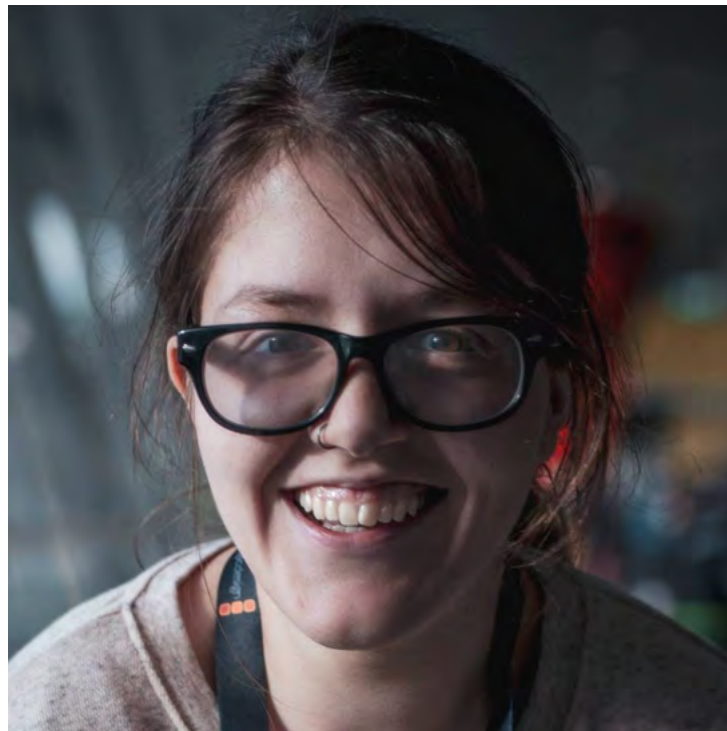
Amy is a media creative, disability advocate and activist.

Amy has a Bachelor of Screen Media and was awarded a Westpac young technologist scholarship. She was part of the prestigious 'Young Social Pioneers program' with the Foundation for Young Australians, for her commitment to media diversity for disability.

Alongside her filmmaking projects, Amy has worked at the Youth Disability Advocacy Service (YDAS), Children and Young People with Disability Australia (CYDA), and several other youth organisations to increase inclusion, skills-building and opportunities for disabled young people.

Amy recently received a grant from SIGNAL young creatives lab to develop a short comedic film about the assumptions around a young person with disability.

In 2021 the Lesley Hall Scholarship moved to a new timeline. The scholarship is now held in May so the scholarship was paused in 2021.



**“The confidence receiving this award has given me is indescribable. It’s really helped me see that the way I’m forming my career is going to have an impact and is absolutely heading in the right direction to be able to help carry on Stella’s passions and advocacy is a true honour.”**

- Amy Marks

Winner of the 2021 Stella Young Award

Up: Amy Marks, Stella Young Award Winner 2021.

Right: Eliza Hull and Caroline Bowditch on stage at the Music Victoria awards, 2021. Photo by Martin Philbey.

## AAV and Music Victoria’s Amplify Award

The inaugural Arts Access Victoria Amplify award recognised a Deaf or Disabled musician. The award was part of Music Victoria’s annual awards night at the Melbourne Recital Centre. The winner receives \$3,000 cash and a rehearsal hire package from Bakehouse Studios.

Eliza Hull was the 2021 Amplify Award winner.

In 2021 Eliza presented the disability-led Isol-Aid festival, released the EP, ‘How we disappeared’, and undertook strong advocacy and supporting the industry.

**“The Amplify Award has emerged out of a long engagement between Arts Access Victoria and Music Victoria, and responds directly to an identified need. We are delighted to back Music Victoria’s leadership in this space, and to come on board as a financial sponsor.”**

- Caroline Bowditch,  
CEO, Arts Access Victoria





# Financials

Arts Access Society Incorporated, Trading As Arts Access Victoria  
ABN 34 192 751 897

## Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income For The Year Ending 31 December 2021

AAV completed the year with an operational deficit of \$17,300 and an overall surplus of \$111,056 due to an increase in our trust fund by \$128,356. The ongoing conditions of COVID-19 had a major impact on the sector. However, AAV successfully minimised the COVID-19 impact to our operations and maintained our financial position. Despite the incredible work of our staff to transfer our programs to an online environment, programs numbers, and consequently NDIS income, dropped significantly. We received Federal and State government support. We received rent relief support from the City of Port Phillip. This funding allowed us to retain our workforce and to continue running our programs and expanding activities.

	Dec - 21 \$	Dec - 20 \$
<b>Revenue</b>		
<b>Activities Income</b>	695,424	458,869
Private Sector and Other Income	-	10
Interest Income	43,216	34,045
Government Grants Operation	884,713	993,464
Creative Victoria Strategic Investment Fund – Stage 1	<b>60,000</b>	<b>58,088</b>
Accelerating Cultural Change Pilot Program	105,115	-
Government Grants Projects	1,002,306	1,368,758
Funds Brought Forward from Last Year	-	-
Funds Transferred to Next Year/Contract Liabilities	<b>(105,799)</b>	<b>(202,894)</b>
<b>Total Revenue from Ordinary Activities</b>	<b><u>2,684,975</u></b>	<b><u>2,710,340</u></b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Salaries, Wages and Artist Fees	1,775,899	1,974,315
Programs Costs	485,870	205,743
Marketing & Communications	22,800	33,168
Infrastructure Costs (Admin)	341,074	287,995
Depreciation Expenses	76,632	83,205
<b>Total Expenses from Ordinary Activities</b>	<b><u>2,702,275</u></b>	<b><u>2,584,426</u></b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) from Ordinary Activities after income tax, attributable to the members of Arts Access Society incorporated.</b>	(17,300)	125,915
Other comprehensive income/expense for the year net of tax	-	-
Asset Sales & Market Revaluation of Investments	128,356	(36,212)
<b>Total comprehensive surplus/(deficit) for the year attributable to members of Arts Access Society Incorporated</b>	<b><u>111,056</u></b>	<b><u>89,703</u></b>



**Statement of Financial Position**  
**For The Year Ending 31 December 2021**

	Notes	Dec - 21 \$	Dec - 20 \$
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash Assets	2	1,265,872	919,538
Receivables	3	98,493	329,334
Prepayments	5	29,557	11,813
Total Current Assets		<b>1,393,922</b>	<b>1,260,686</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	6	174,577	238,441
AA Trust Investment Holding		1,077,352	944,578
Total Non-Current Assets		<b>1,251,929</b>	<b>1,183,019</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>2,645,851</b>	<b>2,443,705</b>

	Notes	Dec - 21 \$	Dec - 20 \$
<b>Liabilities</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
NAB Account Clearing		8,590	11,004
Payables	8	134,946	163,796
Employee Entitlements	9	-	-
Provisions	10	92,000	87,329
Income in Advance	11	1,160,984	1,055,083
Total Current Liabilities		<b>1,396,520</b>	<b>1,317,212</b>
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>			
Provisions	10	51,384	39,601
Total Non-Current Liabilities		<b>51,384</b>	<b>39,601</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>1,447,904</b>	<b>1,356,813</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>1,197,947</b>	<b>1,086,891</b>
<b>Members' Funds</b>			
Accumulated surplus brought forward	13	1,086,891	997,188
Surplus/ (Deficit) This Year		111,056	89,703
<b>Total Members' Funds</b>		<b>1,197,947</b>	<b>1,086,891</b>



# Thank You

## Our Board



### **Amanda Lawrie-Jones (Chair)**

Amanda Lawrie-Jones has lived experience of disability and is a skilled Disability Inclusion Consultant with decades of organisational capability experience. She manages her own business and has successfully created impact and meaningful change in both government and non-government sectors. In 2018, Amanda was a finalist in the National Awards for Disability Leadership in the category of 'Change Making.' She was appointed to the AAV Board in 2018.



### **Brad Sadler (Vice Chair)**

Brad Sadler has an extensive history of senior executive management in local government, community, aged and disability services. He is the Founding Director of Dana Consulting and Director of Illuminate Yoga Studio, where he currently teaches yoga and meditation. Brad has been active in the arts as a musician, singer/chorister, performer and director in community-based theatre. He was appointed to the AAV Board in 2012 and has been the Chair since 2016.



### **Peter Crowle (Treasurer)**

Peter Crowle is a Chartered Accountant and has financial experience across many industries, as well as international experience working in the UK. Since returning from the UK, he has worked at Cricket Australia to implement a new funding distribution model, and then moved to Origin Energy as a Finance Manager. Peter is currently Finance Manager at City Facilities Management. He was appointed to the AAV Board as Treasurer in 2014.



### **Kate Hood**

Kate Hood became a wheelchair user over a decade ago and reinvented herself as a disabled actor and theatre maker. She formed her disability-led theatre company, Raspberry Ripple Productions, as a response to the invisibility of disabled actors, writers and theatre makers across our stages and screens. Raspberry Ripple's remit is to tell stories of disabled and non-disabled people living in the world together. Kate was appointed to the AAV Board in 2016.



### **Luke King**

Luke Duncan King is a visual artist who also works at the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) as a museum educator, leading public and school tours. He has a strong interest in all artforms, as well as a passion for improving accessibility for Deaf and hard of hearing people at museums, art galleries and both public and private/independent art spaces. Luke was appointed to the AAV Board in 2016.



### **Adrian Chye (Finance Steering committee)**

Adrian has more than 18 years' experience in strategy, corporate finance and accounting roles within real estate, funds management and financial services. Adrian is currently the Director, Strategy and Corporate Finance at Vicinity Centres and is responsible for group strategy, mergers and acquisitions, financial planning and analysis and external financial reporting.

### **Laura Purbrick (Board Observer)**

## Our Staff

Aaron McMurray	Eleanor Purseglove	June Lamb	Patrice Capogreco
Adolfo Aranjuez	Elizabeth Pallikaris	Kate Disher-Quill	Penelope Pollard
Alister Karl	Emily Rose	Kate Stodart	Phillip Noack
Amy Laidlaw	Eva Sifis	Kate Symons	Rachel Edward
Andrea Hughes	Fina Po	Katharine Rhoda	Rhian Hinkley
Angela Mirecki	Fiona Tuomy	Katharine Symons	Sabina Knox
Anna Devine	Fleur Dean	Katherine Wrozek	Sam Boon
Annalies Visser	Fury	Kim Ho	Sarah Fiddaman
Anthea Kemp	Gabriela Georges	Krystal Seigerman	Sarah Houbolt
Ara Dolatian	Gabrielle New	Laila Costa	Sebastian Fowler
Arty Owens	Gemma Horbury	Lainie Cann	Seth Geryon
Ayse Ayranci	Geoff Robinson	Laura Hook	Shannon Driscoll
Caitlin Benedtto	Geoffrey Thorsen	Lauren Spark	Siobhan McGinnity
Caoife Power	Heidi Howard	Leesa Snider	Sophie McPike
Caoife Power	Helen Graham	Liang Luscombe	Sophie Payten
Carlos Parraga	Hollie joyce	Lindy Anne Chadwick	Stefan Gevers
Carol Smith	Jamie Rawls	Madison Elrick	Susan Learner
Caroline Bowditch	Janice Florence	Mathew Wooden	Tania Smith
Charlotte Abrams	Jessica Donoghue	Michelle Grace Hunder	Tara Kingston
Chris Barry	Jessica Morris Payne	Milly Cooper	Tim Burke
Dale Gorfinkel	Jo van Heek	Myf Powell	Tim Reid
Danielle Marlow	Joana Pires	Nat Bartsch	Timothy Woodward
David de Roach	Jon Tjhia	Nikki Zerella	Vicky Fitzpatrick
David Maney	Jude Pearl	Nkechi Anele	Zahran Saheed
David Rosetzky	Juliet Rowe	Paryvn Bennett	



## Our supporters and funders

We thank all our funders, partners and supporters for making possible AAV's artistic and outreach activities in 2021.



Australian Government



Accessible Arts	City of Banyule	Footscray	Peninsula Shire	St Kilda Film
ACMI	City of Boroondara	Community Arts	Multicultural Arts	Festival
AMaGA	City of Brimbank	Footscray House	Victoria	State Library of
APRA AMCOS	City of Darebin	SRS	National	Victoria
Arena Theatre Co	City of Darebin	Gasworks Art Park	Communications	Stomping grounds
Arts Access	City of Frankston	Greenhaven SRS	Museum	Stonnington
Australia	City of Frankston	Griffin Theatre	National Exhibitions	Sydenham Grace
Arts Centre	City of Greater	Hobsons Bay City	Touring Support	SRS
Melbourne	Dandenong	Council	Victoria,	The Gospel
Arts Front	City of Greater	Horsham Rural City	Neon Parlour	The Melbourne
Arts House	Geelong	Council: Home	Next Wave	International Film
Arts Industry	City of Kingston	ISPA	Northern Terrace	Festival
Council	City of Maribyrnong	Kaz School	SRS	The National Gallery
Arts Law	City of Melbourne	Koorie Heritage	Open House	of Victoria
Ashwood School	City of Moreland	Trust	Melbourne	The Perth Festival
Ausdance Victoria	City of Port Philip	La Mama Theatre	Orange Productions	The Victorian
Australia Council for	City of Port Phillip	Liunden Gallerey	Orchestra Victoria	Government
the Arts	City of Whittlesea	Louis Joel Arts &	Park Towers	The Wheeler Centre
Australian Ballet	City of Yarra	Community Centre	Management	Theatre Network
Australian Film	Coburg Library	Lucy Guerin Dance	Perth Festival	Australia
Television and	Collingwood Yards	Co	Polyglot Theatre	Touch Compass
Radio School	Curtin University	Melbourne	Public Galleries	University of
Bayside Special	DADAA	Internatinal Film	Association Victoria	Melbourne
Development	Dax Centre	Festival	Public Libraries	University of
school	Department of	Melbourne	Victoria	Queensland
Benjil Place	Health and Human	International Jazz	Queens Lodge SRS	VAPAC
Berendale School	Services	Festival	Queensland	Vic Health
Black Dog Institute	Department of	Melbourne Fringe	University of	Victoria University
British Council	Infrastructure,	Festival	Technology Rawcus	Victorian
Brotherhood of St	Transport, Regional	Melbourne Recital	Red Gallery	Government
Laurence	Development and	Centre	Regional Arts	Department of
Brunswick Lodge	Communications	Melton City Council	Victoria	Premier and
SRS	Department of	Melton Willows	Rising Festival	Cabinet
Brunswick Uniting	Premier and	SRS,	Royal Ave SRS	Victorian music
Church	Cabinet	Memo music Hall	Royal Botanic	development offices
BUC	Diversity Arts	Midsumma	gardens	White Night
Chippendale Lodge	Australia	Moonee Valley	Screen Australia	Wild at Heart
SRS	Emerging Writers	Council	Services Australia	Willows SRS
CHSP	Festival	Moreland City	SIGNAL	Writers Victoria
Chunky Move	Express Media	Council	Songlines	
Circus Oz	Feral Arts	Mornington	Southwest Tafe	